

Introduction

Good morning. My name is Linda Chhor and I am the MassHealth Adult Foster Care Program Specialist at the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS). I am here to present staff testimony on proposed amendments to 101 CMR 351.00: *Adult Foster Care Services*.

Amendments to this regulation are being proposed at this time in accordance with M.G.L Chapter 118E, Section 13D, which requires the secretary of EOHHS to establish, by regulation, rates to be paid by governmental units for health care services. The proposed amendments are anticipated to be effective for dates of service on or after March 1, 2021.

Background

Regulation 101 CMR 351.00 establishes rates for adult foster care (AFC) services purchased under the MassHealth program. AFC is a community-based service, provided in the member's home by an AFC provider, that is designed to meet a member's need for assistance with activities of daily living (ADLs) and instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs). Members receiving AFC services live with an AFC caregiver, who receives a stipend from the AFC provider and is responsible for the member's care twenty-four hours per day. Members receiving AFC services also receive visits from a multidisciplinary team consisting of, at a minimum, a registered nurse and care manager.

EOHHS has established three payment rate categories within the AFC program: Level I, Level II, and intake and assessment services. Payment rates for Level I and Level II services cover the costs of providing members assistance with ADLs and IADLs. Providers bill for all members that meet the AFC program's clinical eligibility criteria at the Level I payment rate, unless those members are assessed to require more intense assistance or caregiver involvement, in which case they are eligible for the corresponding Level II payment rate. The Level I and Level II rates are paid on a per-member per-day basis and cover the stipend paid to the AFC caregiver, the cost of the multi-disciplinary team, and administrative expenses. The rate for intake and assessment services is paid per admission and covers a set of preadmission services provided to members seeking admission to the AFC program.

Description of Proposed Changes

Based on the rate review, EOHHS is proposing to maintain the rates for AFC services at the existing level for all services. Rates for all services listed in 101 CMR 351.00 would satisfy the requirement of M.G.L. Chapter 118E Section 13C, which requires that rates established by EOHHS for health care services be “adequate to meet the costs incurred by efficiently and economically operated facilities providing care and services in conformity with applicable state and federal laws and regulations and quality and safety standards and which are within the financial capacity of the commonwealth.”

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact as a result of the proposed amendments.

This concludes my testimony. Thank you.